Docket: Syn-8312

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 via electronic submission on the date shown below.

Simet Keen

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applic. No.

: 10/728,389

Confirmation No. 9231

Applicant Filed

: Kevin W. Smith, et al. : December 5, 2003

Title

: Tissue Retractor and Method for Using the Retractor

Group Art Unit : 3773 Examiner

: Woo, J.

Docket No. Customer No. : Syn-8312 : 27,316

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants hereby request amendment of the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 2 of this paper.